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Lisa A. Brown

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8-29-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Evangelisti et al

Docket No.: D-42837-01

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Not Yet Assigned

Title: VACUUM PACKAGING MACHINE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is being filed in order to present the claims of the
above-identified application in better form for U.S. examination.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claims 1-21, and add the following new claims:

~~22. A vacuum packaging machine for performing a vacuum sealing operation on
product packages, comprising a vertical stack of vacuum chambers each arranged to
receive at least one unsealed product package and operable to perform and independent
vacuum sealing operation on the at least one product package.~~

23. A vacuum packaging machine according to claim 22, further comprising a
conveyor arrangement operable to load and unload a selective vacuum chamber with the

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